GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2018
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Data on Narcotic Habit
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has collected and released data on India's narcotics habits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the findings of the Government there is a rise in the popularity of methaqualone sold as Mandrax in Britain and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether according to the report only a fraction of the drugs seized as contraband are disposed off and accounted for; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the status of drugs seized but not disposed off or otherwise accounted for, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has conducted a National Survey on the extent, pattern and trend of drug abuse in the year 2000-2001 and it is estimated that about 732 lakh persons in India were users of alcohol and drugs of which 87 lakh used Cannabis, 20 lakh used opiates and 625 lakh were users of Alcohol. Thereafter, no national survey on drug abuse has been conducted.
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(c): The drug Law Enforcement agencies in India has seized 46873.052 kg of Methaqualone and arrested 20 persons including 8 foreign nationals. It indicates that the drug is in demand in India and may be popular among users. Details of seizure of cases is placed as Annexure-A.

(d) & (e): It is not true that only a fraction of the drugs seized as contraband are disposed off and accounted for by the Government agencies. All seized drugs are deposited in the Malkhana of enforcement agencies concerned or NDPS courts, where these are kept in safe custody as per the procedure laid down by the Government.
The seized drugs are disposed off only after obtaining order from the competent court by the Drug Disposal Committee as specified in the guidelines or notifications in this regard. All seized drugs are eventually disposed off as disposal is a continuous process. The State-wise details of seizures and disposals during the year 2016 is enclosed at Annexure-'B'.

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